



The HERALD

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Des Plaines

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Mostly sunny

TODAY: Mostly sunny and hot, chance of thunderstorms. High around 90.

FRIDAY: Partly cloudy, high around 90.

Map on Page 2.



OFF AND ROLLING . . . Mayor Herbert H. Behrel is at the helm with City Clerk Eleanor Rohrbach aboard to help promote the city's new map detailing bicycle routes and historical sites in Des Plaines.

'Liberty march' through city Friday

The Des Plaines Historical Society has announced plans for a "liberty march" through the city Friday to acquaint residents with local historical sites.

Richard Welch, the society's museum director, said the march will begin at the society's museum, 777 Lee St., after the Fourth of July parade.

Persons taking the two-mile hike will receive an orientation visit through the society museum and be

given a detailed map outlining the march.

The march will go through the downtown area, past the historic Rand Mill and other landmarks, Welch said.

Each person participating in the walk will receive a commemorative Bicentennial medallion or patch. The registration fee for the march is \$2.50 for a medallion and \$2 for the patch.

Welch said \$1 of each registration fee will be used for the society's restoration projects.

Members of Explorer Scout Post 60 will be in charge of the registration desk at the museum and at the checkpoint at Willow Park, near Graceland and Rand Road. The checkpoint will close at 4 p.m. and the check-in at the museum will close at 5 p.m., he added.

Aldermen to get petitions

Don't let hospital expand: residents

A group of Des Plaines residents plans to ask the city council next week to reconsider its decision to allow Forest Hospital to expand to an 11-acre tract near Garland Place and Rand Road.

The city council gave tentative approval to the expansion request about two weeks ago. Aldermen are scheduled to vote Monday night on an ordinance approving zoning for the project.

James Schwass, 30, of 717 Garland Pl., one of 70 residents who opposes the expansion, Wednesday said petitions are being circulated and will be presented to the city council.

The residents oppose the expansion, saying it would create security problems, be too close to single-family homes and Rand Park, and create a nuisance.

PETITIONS OPPOSING THE expansion were presented to the city before the city council's first vote, but aldermen voted 12-4 in favor of the project. Ald. Joseph Szabo, 1st; Thomas Koplos, 1st; Carmen Sarlo, 6th; and Gerald Meyer, 7th, voted against the request.

City council approval of the expansion came after the city clerk read the names of 150 businesses that sent letters in support of the project. About 100 employees of Forest Hospital, who reside in Des Plaines, also sent letters to their aldermen urging approval of the project.

Schwass said residents living near Forest Hospital have sent letters to the businesses that support the expansion in an effort to explain the homeowners' opposition to the project.

"I don't think many of the businesses knew anything about the Forest Hospital expansion and were unaware there was any opposition to it," Schwass said.

He said many of the residents opposing the expansion plan to stop patronizing business that support the project. "They are going to get very little business from us," he said.

IN ADDITION TO the letters to businesses and the petitions, he said, residents are being asked to call or write to their aldermen and express their opinions concerning the expansion of the hospital.

The purchase of the property for the expansion is dependent on city council approval. All the land, with the exception of a small piece of residential property, already was zoned for commercial and industrial development.

Forest Hospital, 555 Wilson Ln., has proposed purchasing the property and an existing building for use as an educational center, occupational therapy unit and offices.

In 1972 the city council rejected a request by the hospital to rezone the Des Plaines Funeral Home, 1717 Rand Rd. Council members cited opposition from residents as the reason for turning down the request, which would have allowed the hospital to establish an adolescent treatment center and a supervised workshop for the handicapped.

Old city hall gets a reprieve

The Des Plaines City Council apparently will receive a revised recommendation Monday on parking plans for the Civic Center complex that includes allowing the old city hall building to remain standing, at least for now.

The fate of the building has been the source of controversy for some time. Some aldermen have argued the structure should be razed to make room for parking for the Civic Center and the police building while others contend the facility should become a museum and community center.

A recommendation to construct an L-shaped parking garage to accommodate police vehicles and private cars will be discussed at a meeting of the building, grounds and parking lots committee Monday at 7:30 p.m. before the city council meeting.

More parking would be provided in a grade-level parking lot around the old city hall building and the Civic Center.

THE RECOMMENDATION represents a change in past plans considered by the committee. Efforts have

been made in recent weeks to obtain enough votes to demolish the city hall building.

No firm decisions have been made on the plan which was prepared by the architectural firm of Holmes and Fox. The firm designed the six-story Civic Center and the police building which is under construction.

Ald. Irene Birchfield, 5th, said Wednesday the plan would allow the old city hall building to remain standing.

The Des Plaines Historical Society and the Bicentennial Commission have asked the building be preserved as a museum and community center.

Some city officials have argued that it would cost \$100,000 to \$300,000 to restore the building and bring it into compliance with the city code.

Several aldermen have recommended that the city attempt to obtain the post office building at Graceland and Ellinwood streets as a new home for the society once the post office's new headquarters is completed at Oakton Street and Executive Way next year.

Sirens activated by malfunction

Civil Defense sirens were activated throughout Des Plaines for a brief time Wednesday night, but officials said there was no cause for alarm.

A fire department official said the Civil Defense warning system was activated about 9:15 p.m., apparently because of a malfunction. The sirens were turned off about 9:30 p.m.

Martin Brown, a spokesman for the Central Telephone Co., which operates and services the warning system, said the malfunction apparently occurred at the Des Plaines Civic Center, Miner Street and Graceland Avenue.

As of late Wednesday, he said, work crews were attempting to determine the cause of the malfunction.

Holiday exodus

It happens every 4th—suburbanites pack their cars with picnic goodies and head for the super boonies

by TONI GINETTI

The mid-summer Fourth of July exodus — to lakes, to summer homes, to the woods — will begin tonight as thousands of area motorists pack up the family for a three-day vacation.

For travelers, the long holiday weekend will mean crowded roads, expensive gasoline, hot-and-humid July temperatures and the specter of nearly 600 highway deaths nationwide.

This year's Friday Independence

Day will encourage more to take to the highways for a three-day getaway, officials predict. Travel in the Northern Illinois area will be aimed at the lake areas in southern Wisconsin and around Fox Lake, state police say.

"We know the areas that will be congested on the holiday," State Police Trooper Al Hapack said. "Primarily the traffic will be coming from the lakes."

"ILL. RTE. 12 is always busy and Ill. Rte. 53 will be another problem," said Hapack, information officer at state police Northern Cook County headquarters in Des Plaines.

The Northwest Tollway also is expected to carry much of the traffic which will be heading away from the Chicago area tonight and back again Sunday night, he said.

"I would think the tollway would be the best, fastest way to get in and out of the city," Hapack said.

Road construction should not seriously hamper travelers on the major highways. The Illinois Toll Highway Authority reports no major construction in progress, although several per-

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Now Johnny
can play games
while learning

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RISE IN PRICES for gasoline may move Tom Dougherty from his parents' Lincoln back to his old bicycle.

Motorists say they're driving to poorhouse

Jim Fogarty was not in the driver's seat Wednesday because of the latest gasoline price increase.

Fogarty of Schaumburg was in the passenger seat of his girlfriend's Toyota instead of driving his Mercury.

"I tell you it's ridiculous. That's why we're in this car. I've got a Mercury and I can't put gas in it. It's ridiculous," he said.

Fogarty and most other motorists questioned Wednesday said nonessential and pleasure driving will be curtailed to some degree because of the recent rise in gas prices. Many also foresee a further climb toward the dollar-a-gallon level before it's over.

"If the price doesn't come down, we'll all be walking," said Jerry Lesiak of Rolling Meadows, as he put more than \$18 of gasoline into his truck.

LESIK, who has a camper, said he traded down to a smaller model car for the family during last year's gas crunch. And this year's family vacation will be closer to home, he said.

"Just you wait. It's going up to \$1 (a gallon). You'll see and then we'll have all the gas we want," he said.

Brett Nugen of Elk Grove Village is not happy with the new prices.

"Why are you asking such a dumb question? I've got to drive to work where I didn't get a raise this year and it's costing me more to get there," Nugen said.

To meet the increased cost of fuel, his family's food budget will have to take a cutback, he said.

A vacation this summer? Nugen just laughed.

TOM DOUGHERTY of Arlington Heights may have to swap his folks' Lincoln for his old bicycle.

"I used to buy a dollar's worth when I used the car. Now I've got to get \$2. I'm just a poor student and I can't afford this driving around," said Dougherty, a student at Marquette University.

"I'm going to have to fix up that old bike of mine pretty soon," he said.

Laurel Pecho of Schaumburg said, "I'm not particularly fond of it." However, she added, "We have just begun to accept it as a fact of life."

Some drivers seemed to feel the price increases were not entirely unjustified.

"I figure that they have costs, too," said Rocky Landato of Schaumburg. "There is nothing we can do about it."

Arena dead if taxes up: Halas

by KURT BAER

Chicago Bears owner George Halas said Wednesday he would abandon his plan for a new stadium at Arlington Park Race Track if it were shown that the facility would be a tax burden to Arlington Heights residents.

"If there is any possibility of a tax increase, we'll drop it," Halas told The Herald in an exclusive interview.

The proposal to issue general-obligation bonds to build the \$30 million stadium has prompted serious concern that village property taxes would have to be raised if revenue from stadium operation is insufficient to pay off the debt.

Halas, 80, said Wednesday he has confidence in the conclusion by Madison Square Garden Corp.'s financial

consultants that village income from the stadium would be more than enough to retire the bonds.

"All the figure so far substantiate it," he said. "We've got the stadium figures down pretty good now. I think we know the money is there to cover the debt service."

"If the money for the debt service doesn't cover the bonds, we'd withdraw gracefully," he said.

THE ARLINGTON Heights Village Board has requested backup information used by Touche Ross & Co. and John Nuveen & Co. — two financial consultants hired by Madison Square Garden to work on the stadium bond proposal.

The annual debt service on a \$29.765 million general-obligation bond issue

would range from \$2,009 to \$2,339 million. Total income to the village from stadium operations would be from \$3.21 to \$3.26 million, said Touche Ross.

The possibility also exists that the village will hire its own consultant, Smith, Barney & Co., for advice on stadium financing.

James T. Ryan, Arlington Heights village president, met privately with Smith, Barney representatives last month and has said he will ask the village board whether it wants to retain the firm.

Halas said again Wednesday that he will only move the Bears to Arlington Heights if it is clear that the people of Arlington Heights will welcome them. He said he hopes representatives of the football club will be able to meet

soon with clubs, homeowners' groups and other village organizations.

"We want to attempt to acquaint the people in the village with who the Bears are and what we expect for the future," Halas said.

A **PROMOTIONAL** color film, focusing on the Bears' plans to rebuild the club from a last-place team to a championship contender, will be available to show to groups in the village, he said.

Haas has said he wants to open the 1977 season in a new 80,000-seat stadium adjacent to the grandstand at Arlington Park.

The stadium also would be used by the Chicago Sting, a professional soccer team, and for other events including concerts, rallies and exhibitions.



GEORGE HALAS

Centel striker, hit by supervisor's car, to file suit

A striking Central Telephone Co. employee hit by a company car while on the picket line plans to file a civil suit against the telephone company, a union steward said Wednesday.

Sharon Romano, a union steward for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 336, said the employee, Clyde L. Webb, plans to file a personal injury suit against the company.

Webb, 36, of 1330 Rand Rd., Des Plaines, was conferring with union attorneys Wednesday, she said, to work out the details of the suit. "It has not been filed yet, but it will be," Mrs. Romano said.

WEBB WAS struck Tuesday by a

car driven by Ben H. Olmstead, an equipment supervisor for Central Telephone, as Webb picketed at the company's facility, 301 W. Oakton St., Des Plaines.

Police said the incident occurred in a driveway as Olmstead was attempting to enter Oakton St. Olmstead, 42, of 2920 N. Schoenbeck Rd., Arlington Heights, told police he was distracted by the picketers and did not see Webb in the driveway.

Webb was taken by the Des Plaines Fire Dept. to Holy Family Hospital where he was treated for bruises, scratches and an injured knee. Olmstead was not charged by police.

Mrs. Romano said witnesses said

Olmstead failed to stop at a stop sign and struck Webb.

AFTER STRIKING Webb, Mrs. Romano said, the car hit Webb a second time as he attempted to scramble out of the way.

Martin Brown, a Central Telephone Co. spokesman, said Olmstead stopped before proceeding toward Oakton Street and denied that the collision was intentional.

"This was a management person driving and I think this is the last thing in the world he'd want to do," Brown said. "We are not sadistic."

The 900 striking employees walked out early Tuesday after the union and

telephone company failed to reach an agreement on a new contract.

NEGOTIATIONS HAVE been stalled because of several disagreements over changes in work rules and company policies. The primary stumbling block is over the company's desire to make overtime mandatory.

About 30 issues, however, including the economic package for employees, remain unresolved.

The union has asked for a 20 per cent pay raise, an increase in health and life insurance coverage, a reduced work week, a cost-of-living es-

calator clause, two additional holidays and more vacation time.

During the strike, the first in the 20 years the company has served the area, 350 management employees are working in an attempt to maintain service.

Brown said the company had some slight delays in directory assistance Tuesday, but operations were normal Wednesday. The company has asked customers, however, to check their directory before calling for assistance and in the event they do need help to stay on the line until an operator answers.

MRS. ROMANO said she doubts the company is operating near normal during the strike. "Our only comment to that is if they insist on having mandatory overtime when everyone is working, how can they continue to operate normally and efficiently when 900 people are on strike?" she said.

Union and telephone company officials Wednesday said no negotiation sessions were scheduled.

Central Telephone Co. serves about 70,000 commercial and residential customers in Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Rosemont, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Niles and Chicago.

Peak year in 1971-72

High school dropout rate declining

by JUDY JOBBITT

The student dropout rate in High School Dist. 207 has shown a steady decline since the peak year in 1971-72 say school officials.

Figures for the 1974-75 school year have not been released but mid-year estimates show the declining trend continuing. Statistics recently released by the district show that 2.7 per cent of the student population, or 322 students, quit school in 1973-74. In 1971-72, 386 students dropped out although there were about 700 fewer students enrolled in the district.

The average dropout rate for the Chicago suburban area during the 1973-74 school year was 3.36 per cent.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS say one reason for the declining dropout rate is the alternative education program

now offered which allows students to attend night school to earn their high school diploma.

Another reason given was the current emphasis on career education which makes school more relevant to high school students. Vocational education courses which have been added during the past few years also give students the opportunity to train in school for future employment.

The rate dropped to 3.1 per cent during the 1972-73 school year and is expected to be 2.6 per cent or about 300 students this year.

The majority of students drop out after the ninth grade. Figures for 1973-74 show 127 seniors quit school, 117 juniors, 66 sophomores and 12 freshmen.

About half of the students that year

said they quit school because they were not interested in their studies. Ninety students quit to work and 24 joined the Armed Forces.

The district contacted students who dropped out that year recently and found 114 are employed full-time, 28 are in the Armed Forces and 18 are housewives.

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